the provisions of clauses 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the Order is liable for criminal punishment under section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Government has advised the State Govemments/UT Administrations to involve the Gram Panchayats more substantially in the supervision and monitoring of the PDS, especially at the FPS level, as a measure of social audit.

A Model Citizen's Charter has been drawn and circulated to States/UTs for adoption.

Next SAARC Summit

* 177. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRA1AH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-day third special session of the standing committee of the foreign secretaries of seven SAARC nations concluded its deliberations on 10th August,2001, without reaching any agreement on the next summit meeting;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the committee could not endorse Nepal's suggestion to hold the 11th summit in Kathmandu from December 28 to 30, 2001;

(d) if so, whether any dates have been fixed; and

(e) if not, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The Third special Session of the Standing Committee of Foreign Secretaries of SAARC nations was held in Colombo on 9th and 10th August, 2001. Nepal as host to the next SAARC Summit had proposed the dates of December 28,29,30,2001 for the 11th Summit to be held in Kathmandu. The Standing Committee members agreed to consult with their respective governments on the proposal.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) The Committee agreed to carry out consultations to seek the convenience of all member heads of State/Govt, to finalize the dates for the next Summit.

(d) After these consultations, the dates for the 11th SAARC Summit have now been set for 4,5 & 6 January,2002.

(e) Not applicable.